BUSINESS REPORT

MONTANA SENATE
63rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

SENATE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, January 21, 2013   **Time:** 3:00 PM
Place: Capitol   **Room:** 335

BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:

SB 68 - Revise ballot return envelope requirements to reflect extra postage required
SB 124 - Clarify definition of political committee
SB 142 - Clarifying process to fill state senate seat vacancy

EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:

Comments:

_____
SEN. Ron Arthun, Chair

MONTANA STATE SENATE
ROLL CALL
STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

DATE: _Jan_uary 21,_ , 2013

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT/ EXCUSED
Chairman Arthun	✓	
Vice Chair Brown	✓	
Senator Blewett	✓	
Senator Jent		✓
Senator Sales	✓	
Senator Van Dyk	✓	
Senator Webb	✓	

7 Committee Members

MONTANA STATE SENATE
Visitors Register
SENATE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Monday, January 21, 2013

SB 68 - Revise ballot return envelope requirements to reflect extra postage required

Sponsor: **Senator Robyn Driscoll**

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Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
Margaret Cremmen	AARP	X		
Jorge Quintana	Sec of State			X

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

MONTANA STATE SENATE
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Monday, January 21, 2013
SB 124 - Clarify definition of political committee
Sponsor: **Senator Sue Malek**

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Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
Jim Brown	SELF		X	
Julie Steab	COPP			✓
Sean McQuillan	Mont PIRG	X		

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

MONTANA STATE SENATE
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Monday, January 21, 2013
SB 142 - Clarifying process to fill state senate seat vacancy
Sponsor: **Senator David Wanzenried**

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Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
JORGE QUINTANA	Sec. of State	✓		
Jim Brown	MT. REPUBLICAN PARTY	✓		

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 23, 2012
To: Members of the Senate State Administration Committee
From: Jorge Quintana, Chief legal Counsel, Secretary of State's Office
Re: Responses to questions from the January 21ˢᵗ hearing on SB 68

I have attempted to answer the questions posed to me during the hearing on Senate Bill 68. Please let me know if I may be of further assistance.

Q: Is it under the purview of the Secretary of State's Office to put ballots in normal sized envelopes with one more fold so voters may use a 44 cent stamp or forever stamp instead of 64 cent postage?

A: *The Secretary of State's Office prescribes the language and form of the envelope. It is slightly larger than a business size envelope so that the secrecy envelope will fit into it. That size is used by most counties, although some counties use a larger size so that there are fewer folds in the ballots. The local election administrators control the size of the envelopes.*

The envelope is already prescribed to say where the postage goes: "place sufficient postage here (1ˢᵗ Class").

Q: How many vote by mail envelopes are sent in throughout the state in a given election?

A: *In the 2012 General Election, 314,329 absentee ballots were sent to Montana's voters. 289,920 absentee ballots were received, which constitutes 58.93% of the total votes cast in the state.*

Please see the attached spreadsheet under the column "All Absentees Received" for individual counties.

Q: How much money is taken out of county budgets to cover the postage costs for people who did not put the proper postage on their envelopes?

A: *According to our statewide survey of election costs, the counties paid $6,107.72 combined for postage due on returned ballots.*

2012 Federal General Election: Number of Absentee Ballots Sent, Received, Percentage of Votes Cast, Percentage of Registered Voters

	Registered Voters	All Absentees Sent	All Absentees Received	Percentage Absentees Received of Number Sent	Total of All Votes Cast	Percentage of Absentees Received of Total Votes Cast	Percentage of Absentees Received of Total Registered Voters
Beaverhead	6,699	2,863	2,609	91.13%	4,896	53.29%	38.95%
Big Horn	8,416	1,557	1,275	81.89%	4,704	27.10%	15.15%
Blaine	4,059	1,089	985	90.45%	2,900	33.97%	24.27%
Broadwater	3,977	1,445	1,379	95.43%	3,058	45.09%	34.67%
Carbon	7,176	3,003	2,862	95.30%	5,920	48.34%	39.88%
Carter	996	275	259	94.18%	833	31.09%	26.00%
Cascade	53,398	29,176	26,787	91.81%	34,851	76.86%	50.16%
Chouteau	3,856	1,431	1,378	96.30%	2,884	47.78%	35.74%
Custer	7,297	2,526	2,421	95.84%	5,467	44.28%	33.18%
Daniels	1,308	392	372	94.90%	1,027	36.22%	28.44%
Dawson	5,944	2,781	2,701	97.12%	4,497	60.06%	45.44%
Deer Lodge	5,777	2,291	2,134	93.15%	4,540	47.00%	36.94%
Fallon	1,864	583	562	96.40%	1,439	39.05%	30.15%
Fergus	7,855	3,299	3,174	96.21%	6,151	51.60%	40.41%
Flathead	61,130	25,558	24,033	94.03%	44,211	54.36%	39.31%
Gallatin	69,954	35,707	32,407	90.76%	48,664	66.59%	46.33%
Garfield	914	276	270	97.83%	701	38.52%	29.54%
Glacier	7,616	2,539	2,076	81.76%	4,554	45.59%	27.26%
Golden Valley	607	272	264	97.06%	507	52.07%	43.49%
Granite	2,171	810	777	95.93%	1,728	44.97%	35.79%
Hill	9,807	3,695	3,467	93.83%	6,961	49.81%	35.35%
Jefferson	8,125	3,156	2,964	93.92%	6,629	44.71%	36.48%
Judith Basin	1,499	550	523	95.09%	1,237	42.28%	34.89%
Lake	18,670	7,184	6,652	92.59%	13,472	49.38%	35.63%
Lewis and Clark	45,801	19,978	18,611	93.16%	33,878	54.94%	40.63%
Liberty	1,246	502	477	95.02%	1,017	46.90%	38.28%
Lincoln	12,494	4,493	4,254	94.68%	9,058	46.96%	34.05%
Madison	5,671	1,898	1,826	96.21%	4,606	39.64%	32.20%
McCone	1,239	445	430	96.63%	1,018	42.24%	34.71%
Meagher	1,442	631	611	96.83%	994	61.47%	42.37%
Mineral	3,022	1,001	942	94.11%	2,060	45.73%	31.17%
Missoula	83,431	42,341	37,235	87.94%	58,313	63.85%	44.63%
Musselshell	3,097	1,184	1,084	91.55%	2,422	44.76%	35.00%
Park	11,822	4,451	4,187	94.07%	8,950	46.78%	35.42%
Petroleum	387	123	118	95.93%	304	38.82%	30.49%
Phillips	2,792	1,293	1,250	96.67%	2,274	54.97%	44.77%
Pondera	3,642	1,421	1,338	94.16%	2,761	48.46%	36.74%
Powder River	1,312	426	399	93.66%	1,044	38.22%	30.41%
Powell	3,640	1,051	986	93.82%	2,787	35.38%	27.09%
Prairie	882	311	300	96.46%	720	41.67%	34.01%
Ravalli	29,961	11,366	10,603	93.29%	22,505	47.11%	35.39%
Richland	6,378	1,738	1,614	92.87%	4,735	34.09%	25.31%
Roosevelt	6,207	1,548	1,304	84.24%	3,746	34.81%	21.01%
Rosebud	5,113	1,544	1,385	89.70%	3,580	38.69%	27.09%
Sanders	8,338	3,891	3,682	94.63%	6,040	60.96%	44.16%
Sheridan	2,501	1,181	1,120	94.83%	1,982	56.51%	44.78%
Silver Bow	23,652	9,548	8,933	93.56%	17,041	52.42%	37.77%
Stillwater	5,926	2,250	2,147	95.42%	4,758	45.12%	36.23%
Sweet Grass	2,732	1,019	983	96.47%	2,160	45.51%	35.98%
Teton	3,992	1,832	1,709	93.29%	3,332	51.29%	42.81%
Toole	2,764	969	932	96.18%	2,152	43.31%	33.72%
Treasure	582	175	167	95.43%	468	35.68%	28.69%
Valley	4,790	2,408	2,329	96.72%	3,950	58.96%	48.62%
Wheatland	1,316	436	417	95.64%	1,003	41.58%	31.69%
Wibaux	732	155	150	96.77%	554	27.08%	20.49%
Yellowstone	95,589	60,262	56,066	93.04%	69,923	80.18%	58.65%
TOTALS:	**681,608**	**314,329**	**289,920**	**92.23%**	**491,966**	**58.93%**	**42.53%**